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A new species of *Heliceroides* Żabka, 1985 from Qomolangma National Nature Reserve, Xizang, China (Araneae, Salticidae)

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Abstract: The third species of the genus *Heliceroides* Żabka, 1985, collected from Qomolangma National Nature Reserve, Xizang, China, is described herein as *C. qomolangma* Wang & Mi, **sp. nov.** (♂♀). Diagnostic photos of the habitus and copulatory organs are provided.

Keywords: morphology, salticid, southwestern China, taxonomy

中国西藏珠穆朗玛峰国家级自然保护区螯跳蛛属 *Heliceroides* Żabka, 1985 一新种（蜘蛛目：跳蛛科）

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摘要：本文描述了采自中国西藏珠穆朗玛峰国家级自然保护区的螯跳蛛属 *Heliceroides* Żabka, 1985 一新种——珠穆朗玛螯跳蛛 *C. qomolangma* Wang & Mi, **sp. nov.**，提供了该种外形及外生殖器鉴别特征图版。

关键词：形态学，跳蛛，中国西南，分类学

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Introduction

The jumping spider genus *Cheliceroides* Żabka, 1985 was erected based on the male holotype of the type species from Vietnam (WSC 2026). Subsequently, the previously unknown female of the type species was added by Peng & Xie (1993) from China. The genus has always been known as a monotypic genus until Wang *et al*. (2024) described a new species from Yunnan, China, based on a single male specimen. *Cheliceroides* was considered a synonym of *Colopsus* Simon, 1902 by Logunov (2021) according to morphological characters, but was revalidated by Lin *et al*. (2024) based on the molecular evidence. However, its tribal placement within Salticidae remains uncertain.

In our recent examination of spider specimens collected from the Qomolangma National Nature Reserve, a *Cheliceroides* species was recognized as new to science after being carefully compared with the congeners. The goal of the present work is to describe this new species.

Material and methods

Specimens were collected by hand collecting, preserved in 90% ethanol, and all of them are deposited in the museum of Tongren University, Tongren, China. The specimens were examined with an Olympus SZX12 stereomicroscope. After dissection, the epigyne was cleared in a trypsin enzyme solution before examination and imaging. The left male palp was used for the description and illustrations. Photographs of the copulatory organs and habitus were taken with a Kuy Nice CCD mounted on an Olympus BX43 compound microscope. Compound focus images were generated using Helicon Focus v. 6.7.1.

Measurements are given in millimetres. Leg measurements are given as: total length (femur, patella, tibia, metatarsus, tarsus). Abbreviations used in the text and figures are as follows: **AERW** anterior eye row width; **AG** accessory gland; **AME** anterior median eye; **ALE** anterior lateral eye; **At** atrium; **CD** copulatory duct; **CO** copulatory opening; **E** embolus; **EFL** eye field length; **FD** fertilization duct; **MS** median septum; **PERW** posterior eye row width; **PLE** posterior lateral eye; **RTA** retrolateral tibial apophysis; **S** spermatheca; **TB** tegular bump.

Taxonomy

Order Araneae Clerck, 1757 蜘蛛目

Infraorder Araneomorphae Smith, 1902 新蛛下目

Family Salticidae Blackwall, 1841 跳蛛科

Genus *Cheliceroides* Żabka, 1985 螯跳蛛属

Type species. *Cheliceroides longipalpis* Żabka, 1985; type locality Cuc Phuong, Vietnam.

Cheliceroides qomolangma Wang & Mi, sp. nov.

https://zoobank.org/00D20B5F-D8E2-4F5D-861E-1ECA3E0A25CD

Figs 1, 2

Type material. Holotype. ♂ (TRU-JS 1037), CHINA: Xizang Autonomous Region: Jilong County, Zongga Township, Xia Village (28°34.57′N, 85°15.34′E, ca 3800 m), 20 Aug 2024, X-Q Mi *et al*. leg.

Paratypes: 1 ♂ (TRU-JS 1038), Jilong County, Zongga Township, Xia Village (28°33.31′N, 85°14.51′E, ca 3610 m), 18 Aug 2024, X-Q Mi *et al*. leg.; 1 ♀ (TRU-JS 1039), Jilong County, Jilong Township, Dama Village (28°25.78′N, 85°19.29′E, ca 3240 m), 18 Aug 2024, X-Q Mi *et al*. leg.; 1 ♀ (TRU-JS 1040), Jilong County, Jilong Township, Duopu Village (28°24.11′N, 85°17.92′E, ca 2900 m), 18 Aug 2024, X-Q Mi *et al*. leg.

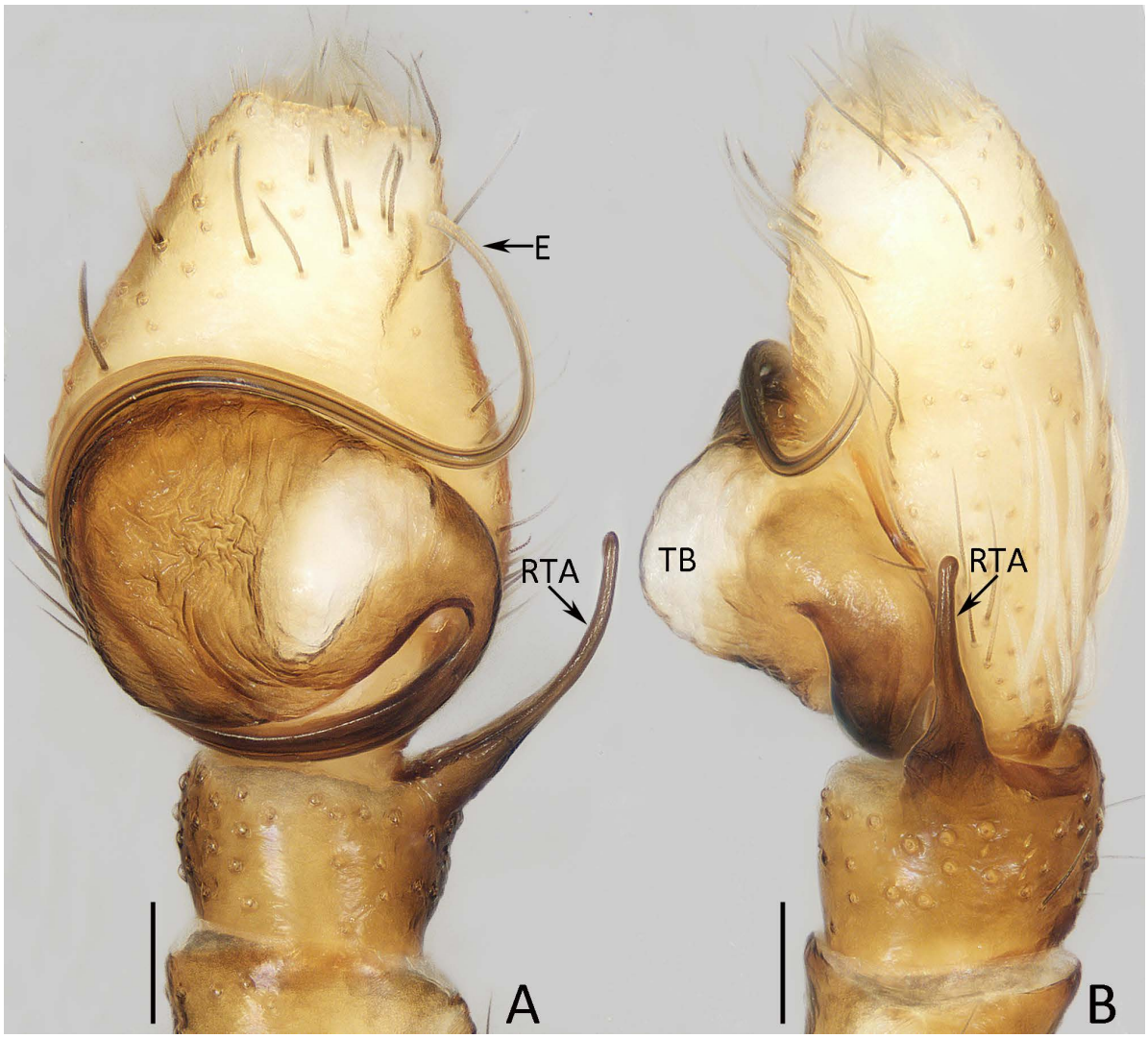

FIGURE 1. Male palp of *Heliceroides qomolangma* Wang & Mi, **sp. nov.**, holotype: **A** ventral **B** retrolateral. Scale bars: 0.1 mm.

Etymology. The species epithet is a noun and referring to the type locality: Qomolangma National Nature Reserve.

Diagnosis. The male of the new species is similar to that of *C. jinxini* Wang, Mi, Li & Xu, 2024 in the general shape of the palp, but can be distinguished by the following: (1) the retrolateral tibial apophysis is bent medially in ventral view (Fig. 1A) vs straight (Wang *et al*. 2024: fig. 1A); (2) the remainder of the embolus after the circling is almost equal to the length of the retrolateral tibial apophysis (Fig. 1A) vs about two times (Wang *et al*. 2024: fig. 1A); and (3) the cymbium has a truncated anterior edge (Fig. 1A) vs arc-shaped (Wang *et al*. 2024: fig. 1A). The female of this new species closely resembles that of *C. longipalpis* Żabka, 1985, but can be easily distinguished by the median septum, which is about one-third the atrial width (Fig. 2A) vs about 1/8 (Lin *et al*. 2024: fig. 14) and by the atrial ridge, which is almost V-shaped (Fig. 2A) vs C-shaped (Lin *et al*. 2024: fig. 14).

Description. **Male** (holotype, Figs 1A–B, 2C–D, F–G). Total length 4.28. Carapace 2.10 long, 1.43 wide. Abdomen 2.18 long, 1.74 wide. Eye sizes and interdistances: AME 0.30, ALE 0.18, PLE 0.15, AERW 1.26, PERW 1.18, EFL 0.82. Legs: I 4.89 (1.43, 0.98, 1.05, 0.88, 0.55); II 3.99 (1.13, 0.73, 0.78, 0.70, 0.65); III 4.24 (1.40, 0.69, 0.80, 0.70, 0.65); IV 4.28 (1.10, 0.63, 0.95, 0.85, 0.75). Carapace brown to dark, cephalon elevated and thorax sloped, covered with sparse white and golden setae, with pair of lateral dark yellow, longitudinal stripes. Chelicerae

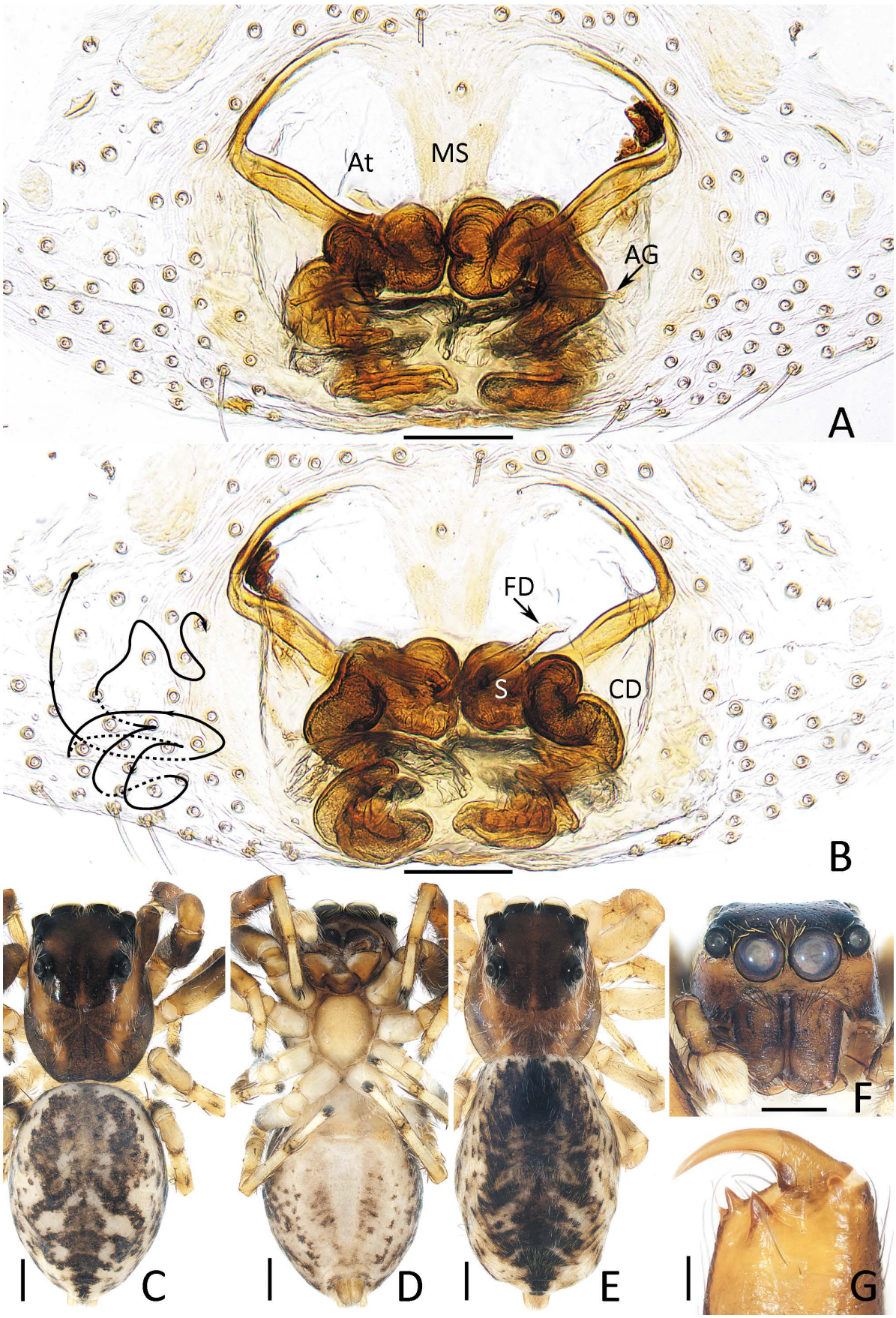

FIGURE 2. *Cheliceroides qomolangma* Wang & Mi, **sp. nov.**, male holotype (**C**, **D**, **F**, **G**) and female paratype (TRU-JS 1039) (**A**, **B**, **E**): **A** Epigyne, ventral **B** Vulva, dorsal **C**, **E** Habitus, dorsal **D** Ditto, ventral **F** Carapace, frontal **G** Chelicera. Scale bars: 0.1 mm (**A**, **B**, **G**); 0.5 mm (**C**–**F**).

dark brown in general, with 2 promarginal and 1 retromarginal teeth. Endites widened distally, with distal hook-shaped processes. Labium colored as endites. Sternum yellow, ca 1.2 times longer than wide. Abdomen long elliptical, dorsum with irregular brown and dark brown patches, and two pairs of anteromedian muscle depressions; venter gray in general, with dark brown spots.

Palp (Fig. 1A–B): tibia short, ~ 1.5× wider than long in ventral view; retrolateral tibial apophysis (RTA) broadened into sub-square portion at base, then followed by bar-shaped remainder bent inward and with blunt tip; cymbium flat, ~ 1.4× longer than wide and with truncated anterior edge; tegulum almost round, with swollen, retrolateral tegular bump (TB) near embolic base; embolus (E) slender, originating at ca 3 o'clock, forming circle along tegular margin clockwise at origin, distally bent to inverted C-shape, and ending with blunt tip.

Female (TRU-JS 1039; Fig. 2A, B, E): Total length 5.15. Carapace 1.95 long, 1.75 wide. Abdomen 3.20 long, 1.74 wide. Eye sizes and interdistances: AME 0.37, ALE 0.22, PLE 0.21, AERW 1.33, PERW 1.25, EFL 0.92. Legs: I 4.31 (1.30, 0.90, 0.88, 0.70, 0.53); II 3.86 (1.25, 0.73, 0.80, 0.58, 0.50); III 4.33 (1.38, 0.60, 0.85, 0.80, 0.70); IV 4.85 (1.35, 0.75, 1.10, 1.05, 0.60). Habitus (Fig. 2E) similar to that of male except darker in abdominal color.

Epigyne (Fig. 2A, B): ~ 1.2× wider than long, with anterior, oval atrium with pair of lateral V-shaped ridges and separated by weakly sclerotized median septum (MS); copulatory openings (CO) beneath posterolateral portions of atrial ridges; copulatory ducts (CD) membranous at basal third, forming several circles medially, with distal, bar-shaped accessory glands (AG) extending transversely; spermathecae (S) without distinct border.

Distribution. Known only from the type locality in Xizang, China.

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Additional information

Author contributions: L-Q Fan performed project management. C Wang & X-Q Mi performed species identification. C Wang & C-J Long finished the species photos and descriptions. C-J Long, C Wang & X-Q Mi drafted and revised the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

Conflict of interest: The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

Data availability: All of the data that support the findings of this study are available in the main text.

Ethical statement: No ethical statement was reported.

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